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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

National Intelligence Council

NIC 1577-83
9 March 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

THROUGH : National Intelligence Officer for Warning

FROM : David D. Gries
National Intelligence Officer for East Asia

SUBJECT : East Asia Warning Assessment

The following items were discussed by Community representatives at the 23 February Warning Meeting.

I. Warning -- North Korea is poised to mobilize with little warning. There are some indications they may provoke an incident involving American or South Korean forces. Section D of this memorandum contains an expanded report on this issue.

II. Regional Developments

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C. Thailand/Vietnam/Kampuchea -- There have been no new Vietnamese military offensives since the end of January. Current activity seems to center around the non-Communist resistance and on what may be a repetition of last year's attempts to draw KPNLF and DK forces away from the Thai border area. Although the Community is uncertain of the reason for the current lack of Vietnamese military initiatives, all agreed that further offensives can be expected in the 10-12 weeks remaining in the dry season--particularly against the base at Ban Sa Nage.

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D. North Korean Reaction to Team Spirit-83 -- North Korea's readiness posture has been increased by the well-orchestrated reaction to joint US/ROK exercises in the area. The "semi-state of war alert" may have been issued to lay groundwork for an incident in the DMZ or during the upcoming Nonaligned summit. To date, however, political implications have been more significant than the North's military reaction. Pyongyang's reaction to this exercise is greater than propaganda actions have been in the past. The accompanying enhancement of readiness posture compliments total mobilization and further degrades US tactical warning time.

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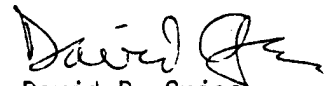
IV. Regional Policy Issues -- The NIO noted that participants should be aware of the following events.

- A major speech on East Asia by Secretary Schultz,
- A State Department statement or action on the Pacific-Basin concept,
- Questions for consideration by the new Wiseman's Group,

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- Technology Transfer to China,
- Secretary Shultz' trip to the ASEAN Foreign Minister's Meeting,
- The Baldrige and Keyworth visits to China,
- Secretary Regan's trip to East Asia, and
- Assistant Secretary Wolfowitz's visit to Northeast Asia.


David D. Gries

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